

AFRD ES&H Operations Committee
71J Conference Room
October 5, 2007
2:00 – 3:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees: Ken Barat, Neil Landau, Tom McVeigh, Peter Seidl, Pat Thomas, Weyland Wong

1. ES&H News and Lessons Learned

New DOE Representative: Neil Landau will be AFRD's contact at the Berkeley Site Office. He is also the contact for ALS, NSD, and Physics. Donna Spencer will be working on the Quality Assurance program. There will be a new construction safety person soon. DOE is looking for more formality and documentation, in anticipation of a Pedonsky review.

Lessons Learned:

Lithium battery fire – An environmental monitor in a Bldg. 50 computer facility was powered by two AA lithium iron (not ion) batteries. They were non-rechargeable "Powerizer" batteries made in China. The batteries came with the unit and were provided by the vendor. This type of battery is generally used for intermittent, high load uses, such as camera flashes. In this case, they were being used for a continuous, low load use. One of the batteries spontaneously self-ignited. Pressure built up and burst one end of the battery, effectively turning the battery into a small rocket. The burning battery knocked the plastic cover off the unit and flew about 10 ft. before hitting a column. Fortunately, the battery landed on non-combustible flooring and burned out without causing further damage. Lithium batteries inherently pose a fire risk on failure that is not posed by alkaline batteries. Some Chinese-made lithium batteries are riskier than the Energizer batteries, because of less expensive design features, such as using a foil vent cap that may not release when pressure starts to build up. There were indications of incorrect metals composition that may have contributed to an internal short-circuit. This brand and type of battery has a history of similar problems.

Pipe explosion at SLAC – New PVC piping was installed. The next day, the subcontractor wanted to pressurize the pipes to check for leaks. The subcontractor was performing a hot tap into an adjacent carbon steel pipe to install a pressure gauge using an acetylene torch. Residual vapor from the PVC cement trapped inside the piping system ignited by the heat of the hot tap. A section of the pipe 8 inches in diameter and about 50 feet long burst. The force of the explosion threw shrapnel 60 - 100 feet outward. There were some first-aid injuries.

Flu shots Oct. 18 & 26 – LBNL employees can make appointments for flu shots by calling Health Services at ext. 6266).

CATS training Oct. 9 – Some feature of the Corrective Action Tracking System database will be changing soon. The new version will become active on October 15. The purpose is to allow the database to function better as part of an overall Issues Management program that includes more statistical analysis of data and lessons learned. Melanie Gravois is offering a training session for anyone who wants to learn how to use the new features. We

will try to schedule another session in January (before QUEST) for the people who cannot make it to the October 9 session.

AFRD ISM Plan

The 2007 AFRD Integrated Safety Management Plan has been posted on the AFRD Website. If you have any trouble accessing the Plan on line, please contact Pat Thomas and she will send you a Word document copy.

Some highlights of the changes include: Walkaround training requirement for supervisors; 90-day grace period to complete required training; place holder for new Job Hazard Analysis program; descriptions of duties for work leads, chemical owners, hazardous waste generators, shop managers, building managers, and emergency teams; changes to safety committee structure, including new Deputy ES&H Coordinator; and a description of the new on-line AHD review process.

Self-Assessment draft

Pat Thomas has been drafting the division self-assessment report for Performance Year 2007. She will be sending it out to the safety committee for comments. If you don't have time to read the whole report, please at least look at the first six pages. Our noteworthy accomplishments, with your help, included:

- Revising the ISM plan and posting it on the AFRD website;
- Implementing a 3-tiered walkthrough system (division, supervisors, and QUEST);
- Updating the Chemical Inventory;
- Doing 13 Line Management Authorizations;
- Reviewing and improving machine guarding in all the shops;
- Reducing seismic hazards in Bldg. 52 and 71;
- Renewing 13 active AHDs;
- Performing 60 ergo evaluations;
- Having no recordable accidents for AFRD employees or guests;
- Everyone (except a few new people) completing at least their initial JHQ;
- Closing 244 CATS.

Some things we need to work on in 2008 include:

- Streamlining the ISM Plan and making the information easier to find;
- Working with Engineering to improve the Shop Manager program and welding operations;
- Reviewing and improving LOTO procedures;
- Implementing the new Job Hazards Analysis program;
- Implementing the new HEAR database (if and when it is completed);
- Encouraging supervisors to implement their safety plans;
- Keeping chemical inventories updated throughout the year;
- Improving the timeliness of ergonomics evaluations and improving ergonomics training;
- Ensuring on-the-job training is documented;
- Learning to use the new CATS database and keeping target completion dates updated;
- Participating in a MESH review.

2. Program Forum

Engineering Division – Weyland Wong announced that Mike Wisherop is the new EH&S Liaison for Engineering Division. Mike was hired from LLNL. He will be taking on the programs that were under Matt Kotowski before Matt retired, such as cranes and hoists, machine guarding, and powered industrial trucks. Weyland reminded everyone to ensure that machine guards are being used. Mike Wisherop will be helping us improve the Shop Manager program. Weyland said that LBNL is expecting to receive some Notices of Violation resulting from the recent audit. There will be a review of fire protection systems in January. The CATS changes are part of an Issues Management Program required by a DOE Order. It includes looking at the effectiveness of action items.

Fusion Science and Ion Beam Technology – Peter Seidl is working on the AHD renewal for NDCX. The Fusion group is also working on a new laser hutch in the basement of Bldg. 58A. They have also been reviewing property from the warehouse and deciding what to keep. They will be contacting Frank Rosado to update the property inventory information for AFRD assets and Weyland Wong or Marshall Granados for Engineering Division assets. Under the property system, the Building Emergency Team radios belong to Facilities Division. Tom McVeigh reported that there is a new graduate student in Thomas Schenkel's group. Andre Anders has some questions for Keith Gershon about whether a transformer can be installed inside Bldg. 53.

LOASIS – Csaba Toth was unable to attend because the LOASIS people are all busy working on their presentations for the BELLA proposal review. Ken Barat has been helping them with safety planning.

Next Meeting:

November 2, 2:00 PM, Bldg. 71J Conference Room